

In the Claims

Please amend pending claims 9 and 11, as set forth in the following listing of all claims in the application.

CLAIMS LISTING

1-8. (previously withdrawn)

9. (currently amended) A process for shelling a crustacean to permit removal of meat from a tail shell thereof, the process comprising:

separating a head/body portion of said crustacean from said tail shell;

providing a shelling tool having a handle and an elongate rod extending away from said handle, said elongate rod being of circular cross section and having a longitudinal slit of uniform height and width extending inwardly from a distal end thereof, said longitudinal slit defining an upper rod fork of semi-circular cross section and a lower rod fork of semi-circular cross section, parallel thereto, of said elongate rod;

sliding said lower rod fork into an open end of said tail shell along an inside surface of an underside of said tail shell such that said underside of said tail shell is guided into said slit a desired distance; and

rotating said tool about a longitudinal axis thereof to thereby produce a crack in said underside of said tail shell and expose the meat contained therein.

10. (original) A process as in claim 9, wherein said tool is rotated approximately 90 degrees.

11. (currently amended) A process as in claim 10, wherein said tool is rotated in a selected one of a clockwise or counterclockwise direction.

12. (original) A process as in claim 9, wherein said tool includes a finger ring and a tether coupling said finger ring to said tool, said process further comprising:

sliding said finger ring over a desired finger of a user's hand.

13. (original) A process as in claim 12, further comprising:

removing said tool from the cracked tail shell;

releasing said tool to depend from said finger ring;

manually widening said crack in said tail shell to further expose said meat; and

removing said meat exposed by the widened crack in said tail shell.

14. (original) A process as in claim 9, wherein said crustacean is a crawfish.

15. (original) A process as in claim 9, wherein said crustacean is a lobster.